UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

DATE: January 25, 1982

FROM: CONS:GCLannon

SUBJECT: W/W John J. Sullivan

TO: AMB:Deane R. Hinton

DECLASSIFIED
EXCISE
258

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE MAR 14 1984
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☐
RELEASE DENIED☐ in part
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS B6

Since January 1981:

I. Four letters have been received.

a) August 28, 1981 from [redacted] informing us Sullivan was alive. We could not locate [redacted] for colaboration. Ref. 81 San Salvador 6474. B6

b) October 1981, letter received by Washington Post. We ran an ad asking writer to contact us. Subsequently, we were contacted by a man who later perpetrated hoax in Honduras. Ref. 81 State 279964; 81 San Salvador 8615; 81 San Salvador 8567; 81 San Salvador 8033.

c) December 9, 1981, letter similar to one to Washington Post received. Writer claimed to have written letter to Post. We ran an ad asking for the writer to contact us and we received 2 responses, both phoney. Ref. San Salvador 0375.

d) January 14, 1982, unsigned letter saying Sullivan was buried in Nuevo Cuscatlán during March 1981. We ascertained burial records are in Santa Tecla and we will visit archives this week. Ref. San Salvador 0436.

II. Approximately 25 telephone calls have been received. Usually caller does not give name or address and only says Sullivan is dead or alive and hangs up. When callers do provide information we investigate. Such calls are reported to the Department by cable. So far nobody has given us any good information. Various refs. 81 San Salvador 7703, 81 San Salvador 7643, 81 San Salvador 7069, 81 San Salvador 6513, 81 San Salvador 6534, 81 San Salvador 6280, etc.

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GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6
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III. Four walks-ins interviewed

a) August 1981 man gave us information about bodies buried in Metalío. We subsequently dug up 2 corpses. Neither was Sullivan. Ref. 81 San Salvador 6312.

b) September 1981 man brought in a photo of his sister's wedding showing a bearded man he claimed was Sullivan. plot ?

c) January 20, 1982, [redacted] called us and informed us that he saw Sullivan late 1980 at API. Matter being investigated. It appears, however, he saw another tall, bearded journalist who at the time worked for API. B6

d) January 25, 1982 [redacted] visited Embassy and told us he wrote the December letter about Sullivan. His story is that Sullivan is being held in Guatemala. B6 all details - why not credible what else

IV. We have reviewed death records in San Salvador, Santa Ana and Chalchuapa in an effort to locate Sullivan.

V. Consular Section personnel have viewed the remains of 15 bodies and disinterred 2 others in our search for John Sullivan. Link Todd Vincent MANY More

The ads started running in January 1981. All information received from any source is investigated. Unfortunately we have run into a stone wall as far as W/W of John Sullivan is concerned.

cc:KWBleakley
HLane
CONS:RCLanion:rmf

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